



## Project Report

### Summary

Project leader	Martin Smith/ Tara Kent
Project Title	Support at the National Chapter Meeting, Hochiminh City
Place and dates, if applicable	27 – 30 November 2019

### Details of Personnel

The visit was originally scheduled for the end of August but this meeting was only held at the end of November. Consequently, the initial lead of this visit T Kent was not able to attend.

- MD Smith IHPBA
- KK Madhavan AHPBA
- Quyen Chu IHPBA/AHPBA

### Details of Local Coordinators

Prof LT Hai, President of the VSHBPS , the executive of the Chapter

### Details of Planning Phase

Not applicable

## Details of Delivery Phase

Program: Day one was a visit to the UMC to see patients scheduled for the live demonstrations on Day 2. We visited the Hospital and the wards. We met the executive committee of the VSHBPS and the VASLD. Prof Hai is the current President of both societies.

Day 3. A full congress of both societies. In the plenary session, MD Smith delivered an overview of the IHPBA and highlighted issues relevant to Vietnam. KK Madhavan presented an overview of liver transplantation in Singapore. There were parallel sessions with the VASLD and the VSHBPS. We attended an excellent session of operative HPB videos.

Outcome: The visit was very well received and the group were exceptionally welcomed and hosted.

We had an opportunity to get a much better idea of the current situation in HPB and transplant surgery in Vietnam. In general their skills and resources in the various HPB units seems of a very high standard. The laparoscopic skills are very good and some of the members have won awards for their videos at IHPBA and regional meetings. The relationships between the members from different part of the country was very good and they seem to communicate and integrate very well. It remains unclear to us exactly how training is achieved and how competency is measured. There appear to be different processes in different parts of the country. In general it appears that the current senior leaders in HPB are fairly young <50 years of age and the very senior older generation of surgeons have stepped back and left the next generation of surgeons to lead the chapter. Prof Hai the current President is a very senior and respected member of the community.

Innovation is well supported and hence about 50% of the liver resections are done laparoscopically. It is not clear the number of pancreas resections that are done laparoscopically but some centers have very large experiences with both distal and proximal pancreatectomies. The quality of the work is variable and ranges from exceptional to adequate.

From this brief visit our impressions are that they do not lack skills for all HPB and transplant surgery. The scientific basis for the surgery is variable and sometimes the reasons for decisions are not clear. This may identify an area that the IHPBA may be able to contribute to. In general, it is our impression that senior mentors and role models particularly in the MIS space are not strong. It appears that assistance with ongoing development of a clearer curriculum for both General surgery and HPB surgery is required.

The members of the team were all awarded honorary memberships of the chapter.

**Content of cooperation between the Delegation of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association (IHPBA), the Asia-Pacific Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association (A-PHPBA) and The Vietnam Society of Hepato Biliary Pancreatic Surgery (VSHBPS), Vietnam Association for Study of Liver Disease (VASLD)**

*HCMC UMC, November 28 2019*

**The list of attending members:**

**The Delegation of IHPBA & A-PHPBA**

Prof. Martin Smith-President of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association  
Prof. Krishnakumar Madhavan - President-Elect of the Asia-Pacific Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association  
Prof. Quyen Chu

Michelle Peters - Secretary of President, IHPBA

**VSHBPS & VASLD**

Prof. Le Trung Hai MD, PhD-President, VASLD & VSHBPS  
Assoc Prof. Nguyen Hoang Bac MD, Ph.D. - Director, HCMC UMC  
Prof. Nguyen Quang Nghia  
Ph.D. Le Van Thanh  
Ph.D. Tran Cong Duy Long  
Ph.D. Ho Van Linh  
Ph.D. Nguyen Duc Thuan  
MS. Le Trung Hieu

Bui Thu Huong-Secretary  
Le Thi Quynh Anh-Secretary of President  
Ly Ngoc Bich-Assistant of President

**A Preface**

A warm welcome to HCMC, UMC and thank you very much for your visiting, attending and working with us.

We always look forward to working closely with the IHPBA and the A-PHPBA. We believed that we together toward long-term cooperation and sustainable development. In order to make the meeting more meaningful and to create more opportunities for us, we would like to send to you the proposal of cooperation that will be specifically presented in this document.

**Content of cooperation**

**We would like to propose:**

- Create favorable conditions for our junior doctors to visit study tours, exchange experiences and participate in the overseas training programs.
- Sending good experts, Associate Professor, Professor, Doctor of philosophy... to attend and have presentations in the congress, the meeting... organized by VASLD & VSHPBS.

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## Use of Funding

Travel for MDS and QC. Accommodation, registration and all incidentals were covered by the chapter. KK Madhavan's travel expenses were covered by A-PHPBA.

## Assessment of Impact

In conclusion, Vietnam is a middle income country with an excellent potential. While a number of issues remain unclear regarding the structure and function of the chapter, their intentions are very good and should be supported through education and research initiatives

## Plans for ongoing project development or capacity building and support

Recommendations: We strongly recommend that there be a continued engagement with the VSHBPS continue. A surgical outreach is not required. Enhanced engagement with education to assist Tara Kent in her established programs is recommended. Tara should guide us in this regard. I would also suggest that we attend the next national congress to demonstrate our commitment to them. They have indicated that many members will be attending the Melbourne meeting. Some have submitted abstracts. There are a few very enthusiastic young surgeons who should participate in the Early Surgeons Committee and they have been asked to provide us with a nomination. They provide us with a document (attached) highlighting their needs which include research collaborations, international fellowship programs and attempts to improve their access to the Elsevier stable of journals. These requirements should be managed by both the IHPBA and the AHPBA together.

## Application for Further Funding

The IHPBA should budget for another visit in 2020. This should include attendance at their National Chapter meeting but be linked to the educational program established by Tara Kent.

News and Photos

